

Giuliani's Commissioner of Health to Speak in Salt Lake City

The Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing (ASTDN) will be holding its annual conference, "Public Health Nursing Ready", at the Little America hotel in Salt Lake City, May 17 – 21, 2003. Tuesday, May 20, 2003 will be continuing education day, focusing on Public Health Nurses' preparedness to respond to the public health needs of their communities. Expert speakers will explore several aspects of public health nursing, including emergency preparedness and response, PHN competencies and the current nursing shortage.

All nurses and other interested individuals are invited to attend. Continuing education units will be provided by Utah Nurses Association (UNA). UNA members will receive a 20% discount on registration. The registration cost is \$65.00

The keynote speaker, Neal Cohen, M.D., former Commissioner of Health of New York City, was appointed by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. As the Commissioner of Health, he oversaw the public health responses to several major crises unprecedented in the history of New York City and the nation. The West Nile virus outbreak, World Trade Center tragedy and the outbreaks of anthrax due to bioterrorism posed enormous challenges to public health. Dr. Cohen was able to successfully put his vision of an integrated public health model into practice following the events of September 11th. Crisis counselors worked side by side with physicians, nurses and medical epidemiologists at the media outlets receiving bioterrorist threats and the Family Support Center in order to address both the physical and mental well being of New Yorkers. Dr. Cohen is currently the Executive Director of the newly created Center on Bioterrorism, leading a partnership with industry, academia and government agencies to improve our understanding of the pathogenesis of potential bioterrorism agents and to translate this knowledge into the biotechnology that will strengthen our preparedness.

There will be a panel discussion in the afternoon. The panel discussants will include Dr. Cohen, Scott Williams M.D., Deputy Director, Utah Department of Health, Leslie Beitsch, M.D., J.D., Oklahoma Commissioner of Health and State Health Officer, Carol Jakeway, R.N., State of Georgia, Director of Public Health Nursing.

The ASTDN began in 1935 as an advisory group of state health department nurses. ASTDN continues today as an active association of public health nursing leaders from across the US and its territories.

Please contact Marilyn Haynes-Brokopp, State Director of Community Health Nursing for registration materials (mbrokopp@utah.gov) or 801.538.6206.